

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 AF-10 SSO-00 ORM-03 INR-10 SS-15

INRE-00 /082 W

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O R 251956 Z MAY 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8153

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS USUN 1982

E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN, SWEL

SUBJ: SAHELIAN ZONE DROUGHT

1. FOLLOWING RECEIVED UNNY TODAY FROM NEHEMIAH RE  
AIRLIFTING OF SEED. PLEASE PASS F. SPENCER, AID/ AFRC/ CWR  
AND R. MCCLURE, AID/ PHA/ FDRC.

2. TEXT NEHEMIAH CABLE AS FOLLOWS:

RE SEED AIRLIFTING. HAVE BEEN STUDYING IN CONSULTATION  
WITH ICEM WHO HAVE CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE AIRLIFT LOGISTICS  
INVOLVED. FOLLOWING CABLE FROM ICEM SHOULD BE BROUGHT  
ATTENTION US AUTHORITIES TO JUDGE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT AND THE  
DISTANCES THAT COULD BE COVERED-  
QUOTE AFTER HAVING GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION TO YOUR REQUEST  
TO MOVE BY AIR 3,500 TONS SEED FROM DAMAZINE/ EAST SUDAN TO  
VARIOUS AIRPORTS AND LANDING FIELDS IN UPPER VOLTA,  
MAURITANIA AND SENEGAL WOULD LIKE TO ADVISE YOU AS FOLLOW:

1. DAMAZINE USABLE ONLY BY AIRCRAFT NOT BIGGER THAN QUOTE  
HERCULES UNQUOTE CARRYING 20 TONS. GREAT NUMBER SUCH TYPE  
AIRCRAFT REQUIRED TO FINISH OPERATION BEGINNING JUNE NOT  
AVAILABLE ON MARKET.

2. ONE WAY DISTANCE DAMAZINE/ OUAGADOUGOU ABOUT 5,000  
KM WHICH HERCULES TYPE AIRCRAFT UNABLE COVER NONSTOP STOP  
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EACH INTERMEDIATE LANDING WOULD INCREASE DISTANCE AS WELL AS  
FLIGHT TIME

3. FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES IT CAN BE SAID THAT AIRPORTS

IN SUDAN AND CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES HAVE NO FUEL OR ONLY LIMITED FUEL SUPPLIES AVAILABLE TO COVER REQUIREMENTS OF SMALL NUMBER SCHEDULED FLIGHTS SERVING THESE AIRPORTS. EXTRA FLIGHTS CANNOT BE REFUELLED. AS A FIRST STEP CENTRAL AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD HAVE TO ARRANGE THROUGH NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL AVIATION FUEL COMPANIES THAT SUFFICIENT FUEL SUPPLIES BE AVAILABLE AT AIRPORTS/ LANDING FIELD MENTIONED YOUR REQUEST.

4. AVIATION FUEL IN CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE, ABOUT THREE TO FOUR TIMES HIGHER THAN IN EUROPE. EVEN IF QUESTION OF SUFFICIENT FUEL SUPPLY SATISFACTORILY SETTLED COST OF OPERATION WOULD BE VERY HIGH

5. IF PROPER TYPE SEED AVAILABLE EUROPE SUGGEST CARRIAGE BY AIR FROM EUROPE TO ONE OR TWO AIRPORTS IN CENTRAL AFRICA AND DISTRIBUTION TO OUTPOSTS BY MEANS OF SMALL AIRCRAFT. BIG CARGO AIRCRAFT MORE EASILY AVAILABLE IN EUROPE.

6. OTHER SUGGESTION TO REQUEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS TO HAVE THEIR AIR FORCES PERFORM THIS OPERATION AS MILITARY EXERCISE. AIR FORCES GENERALLY ABLE TO PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY FOR SUCH TUPE OPERATION AS AIRCRAFT REPAIR, FUELLING UNITS ETC.

7. CHIEF DEPT. TRANSPORT PREPARED COME TO ROME FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION IF SO DESIRED STOP SIGNED JOHN F. THOMAS DIRECTOR ICEM GENEVA UNQUOTE

IN VIEW OF THIS INFORMATION BASED ON EXPERIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE HAVE DECIDED NOT TO AIRLIFT SEEDS EITHER TO MAURITANIA AND UPPER VOLTA FROM SUDAN. OUR OFFICER GOING TOMORROW TO UPPER VOLTA TO STUDY HOW LOCAL SOURCES COULD BE TAPPED. HOWEVER WISH AIRLIFT 500 TONS MILLET FROM PORT SUDAN AND 500 TONS SORGHUM FROM KASSALA AIRPORT IN SUDAN TO FORT LAMY CHAD.

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ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE TO MAKE AVAILABLE DAILY MINIMUM OF 50 TONS FROM EACH AIRPORT PACKED IN JUTE BAGS OF 100 KILOS. CONSIGNEE UNDP RE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 02 APR 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 MAY 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 98  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** n/a  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** martinjw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26-Oct-2001 by kuehnbc0>; APPROVED <25-Jan-2002 by martinjw>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SAHELIAN ZONE DROUGHT  
**TAGS:** AORG, UN, SWEL  
**To:** STATE INFO ROME  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005